

CLASSIFICATION

**SECRET**

SECURITY INFORMATION

**RETURN TO CIA  
LIBRARY**

REPORT NO

25X1A

CD NO.

DATE DISTR.

4 August 1952

NO. OF PAGES

2

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

25X1X

COUNTRY Indochina

SUBJECT Comparison of Prices in the Democratic Republic  
of Vietnam Zone and the Franco-Vietnamese Zone

25X1C

The following is a table comparing the prices, as of May 1952, for various commodities in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) zone and the Franco-Vietnamese zone. Prices in the DRV zones are expressed in DRV Piasters and Indochinese (IC) Piasters. Prices in the Franco-Vietnamese zone are expressed in IC Piasters.

Commodity	Quantity	Price in the DRV Zone <sup>1</sup>	Price in the Franco-Vietnamese Zone	
		<u>DRV Piasters</u>	<u>IC Piasters</u>	<u>IC Piasters</u>
Gold <sup>2</sup>	1 tael (37 grams)	2,250,000	3,200	3,200
Tea <sup>3</sup>	100 kilograms	2,200,000	3,100	6,000
Gasoline <sup>4</sup>	.75 liter	6,000	8	2
Lacquer <sup>5</sup>	100 kilograms	Unknown	Unknown	90,000
Cloth	1 meter	22,000	30	15
Cigarettes <sup>6</sup> (produced in the Franco- Vietnamese zone)				
Cotab brand	1 package	20,000	30	7

CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET~~

[illegible]

SECRET

25X1A

- 2 -

Commodity	Quantity	Price in the DRV Zone		Price in the Franco-Vietnamese Zone
		DRV Piasters	IC Piasters	IC Piasters
Mic brand	1 package	7,000		3
DRV produced cigarettes	1 package	4,000	5	
Salt <sup>7</sup>	1 kilogram	20,000	30	1.5 to 2.5
Corn	1 kilogram	1,500		
Poor quality rice	100 kilograms	350,000	470	320

- 25X1A 1. [ ] Comment. It is believed that the prices in the DRV zone quoted in IC Piasters are absolute prices and not the monetary equivalents of the prices quoted in DRV Piasters.
- 25X1A 2. [ ] Comment. Merchants in the DRV zone are forced to sell any gold found in their possession to the DRV Government at the rate of DRV \$1,500,000 per tael.
- 25X1A 3. [ ] Comment. In the rural areas of the Franco-Vietnamese zone.
4. [ ] Comment. A DRV \$400 customs tax is levied by the DRV on each bottle of gasoline.
- 25X1A [ ] Comment. Presumably this tax is levied on each .75 liter bottle of gasoline sold in the DRV zone.
- 25X1A 5. [ ] Comment. Export of lacquer from the DRV zone to the French zone is punishable by death.
- 25X1A 6. [ ] Comment. The importation of cigarettes into the DRV zone is forbidden.
- 25X1A 7. [ ] Comment. The DRV price quoted is for Bac Giang. The price varies from province to province.
- 25X1A [ ] Comment. The official rate of exchange is approximately IC \$20 to US \$1. In [ ] it was reported that an IC \$100 bank of Indochina note is worth DRV \$15,000. On the basis of this comparative value, US \$1 theoretically would be worth DRV \$15,000. See [ ] for additional information 25X1A concerning economic and monetary conditions in the DRV zone.

SECRET